GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1786
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
REDUCING POVERTY
PALANIYAPPA GOUNDER KUMARASAMY

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Biotechnology important tool for reducing poverty` published in `The Hindu` dated 27.11.99; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Biotechnology is an important field with its impact already well established in agriculture, health, environment and industrial development. It generates tools for poverty eradication and ensuring food, health, ecological and livelihood security of the poor in particular. The Department of Biotechnology has funded several R&D programmes to generate the technology package for societal applications. The aim of this scheme is to provide employment opportunities to the beneficiaries through proven biotechnological tools, generate new knowledge and conduct training and demonstration. The scheme has almost benefitted 20, 000 families in rural areas. Other programmes of DBT in agriculture, health and environmental Biotechnology supplement these efforts.